

## Dr. Burgess Weekly Address December 1, 2017

### Marking One Year of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures

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Hello, this is your Congressman Michael Burgess.

This week marks one year since the U.S. House of Representatives passed the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act, delivering on our promise to help deliver cures to millions of patients. This law is the product of years of work – on both sides of the dais – to bring hope to millions of Americans suffering from serious and, at times, rare diseases. And, the Cures Act makes government an ally, rather than an obstacle, in the cycle of medical innovation.

As with any major legislation, Congress must provide oversight throughout its implementation. Now, nearly a year after Cures became law, it is my privilege to serve as the chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health. Yesterday, the subcommittee held a hearing to check in on Cures' progress. We heard from witnesses, Dr. Francis Collins, the Director of the National Institutes of Health, and Dr. Scott Gottlieb, the Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration. Both of these men are at the helm of implementing the drug development and biomedical research provisions that are included in Cures. They provided key insight into how this law is enabling their agencies to conduct promising and inspiring work.

At the hearing, I was encouraged to hear their updates on how this landmark law already is benefitting patients around America. Last year at this time, there were only 500 cures or treatments to address 10,000 known diseases. Certainly, more progress is needed to alleviate the suffering of an incurable disease; however, we do know that Cures has accelerated the cycle of discovery, development, and delivery of new treatments and has ensured that our nation remains the global leader in biomedical innovation.

It is notable that, within the span of less than a year, the Cures Act has already led to the creation of 110 new research projects focused on the brain, 142 Cancer Moonshot awards, and enhanced drug development, amongst other things. We

expect to conduct more check-ins as the Cures Act is implemented, and I plan to share more updates on this important law as they become available.

As always, I appreciate your comments and your concerns on this issue or any other issue. May God bless you and your family, and as the song says, God bless you Texas.